**REMARKS** 

**Status of the Claims** 

Claims 1-6, 9-15, and 25 are pending in this application. Claims 16-24 were

previously withdrawn from consideration as being drawn to a non-elected invention. Claims

1 and 9 are amended and Claim 25 is cancelled. Support for the amendments is found

throughout the specification, including the claims as filed. Accordingly, the amendments do

not introduce new matter into the above-identified application.

The Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-4, 6, and 11-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being

anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,254,956 to Kjellqvist et al. ("Kjellqvist"). Respectfully, this

rejection is obviated by the amendment to Claim 1.

Kjellqvist describes a floor covering "which comprises one or more substantially

random interpolymers prepared by polymerizing one or more  $\alpha$ -olefin monomers with one or

more vinylidene aromatic monomers and/or one or more hindered aliphatic or cycloaliphatic

vinylidene monomers, and optionally with other polymerizable ethylenically unsaturated

monomer(s)." See column 2, lines 24-30. Respectfully, Applicants assert that Kjellqvist

neither teaches nor suggests cross-linking an elastomeric component, therefore Kjellqvist

does not teach or suggest every element of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicants

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respectfully request that the rejection of Claims 1-4, 6, and 11-13 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

in view of *Kjellqvist* be withdrawn.

The Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 5, 9-10, and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over

Kjellqvist. Respectfully, this rejection is obviated by the above amendment to Claim 1 and

the cancellation of Claim 25.

As noted above, Kjellqvist describes a floor covering "which comprises one or more

substantially random interpolymers prepared by polymerizing one or more  $\alpha$ -olefin

monomers with one or more vinylidene aromatic monomers and/or one or more hindered

aliphatic or cycloaliphatic vinylidene monomers, and optionally with other polymerizable

ethylenically unsaturated monomer(s)." See column 2, lines 24-30. Respectfully, Applicants

assert that Kjellqvist offers no suggestion, and provides no motivation, with respect to cross-

linking an elastomeric component as claimed in the present application. Thus, Kjellqvist

does not teach or suggest every element of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicants

respectfully request that the rejection of Claims 5, 9-10, and 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in

view of Kjellqvist be withdrawn.

Claims 14-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over *Kjellqvist* 

in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,399,689 to Scarlette ("Scarlette"). Respectfully, this rejection is

obviated by the above amendment to Claim 1.

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According to the PTO, Scarlette teaches fillers, pigments, and alumina ceramic grain

compositions that can be blended into floor finishings for enhancing abrasion resistance

without compromising flexibility, hardness, and adhesion. Respectfully, Applicants assert

that neither Kjellqvist nor Scarlette either alone or in combination, offers any suggestion or

provides any motivation to cross-link an elastomeric component as claimed in the present

application. Thus, Kjellqvist and Scarlette, either alone or in combination, do not teach or

suggest every element of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully

request that the rejection of Claims 14-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Kjellqvist, in view

of Scarlette, be withdrawn.

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**CONCLUSION** 

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully assert that

the rejection of the claims as set forth in the Office Action has been addressed and

overcome. Applicants further assert that all Claims are in condition for allowance and

requests that an early notice of allowance be issued. If the Examiner believes any

informalities remain in the application that can be resolved by telephone interview, a

telephone call to the undersigned attorney is requested.

No additional fees are believed due, however, the Commissioner is hereby

authorized to charge any deficiencies which may be required, or credit any overpayment,

to Deposit Account Number 09-0528.

Respectfully submitted,

December 21, 2005

Date

Registration No. 52,362

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